IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A device, comprising:

a backplane with at least one expansion slot and with an upstream connector for connecting with a computer via a serial bus, wherein the device is external to the computer; ~~and~~

at least one expansion card for coupling with the expansion slot, the expansion card including at least one port to provide an interface with the computer through the serial bus; and

an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) connected to the backplane, wherein the backplane is adapted to provide power to the computer through the upstream connector, and to communicate UPS status and control data with the UPS.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one expansion card includes at least one USB+ port.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the at least one expansion card includes at least one USB port.

4. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one expansion card includes at least one serial port.

5. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one expansion card includes at least one parallel port.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one expansion card includes at least one application specific port.

7. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein at least one the expansion card includes:

at least one USB+ port;

at least one RS232 serial port; and

at least one IEEE 1284 parallel port.

8. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one expansion card further includes at least one modem connector.

9. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one expansion card further includes at least one network connector.

10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one expansion card further includes at least one ~~Interact~~ connector for connection to Internet.

11. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the backplane includes a master slot coupled to at least one slave slot via a communication link.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a control module, including a port to provide both serial communication and power to a computer external to the apparatus;

an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) coupled to and controlled and monitored by the control module, the control module including at least one port to provide UPS status and control communication with the UPS, the UPS to provide power to the computer via the control module;

a hub for providing USB/USB+ outputs, the hub being coupled to the control module; and

an external functions unit ~~for providing outputs~~ to provide legacy expansion for the computer through the serial communication link, the external functions unit being coupled to the hub.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the communication link includes a USB link ~~and further includes power~~.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the control module includes at least one port for providing UPS status and control communication.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the external functions unit provides at least one serial port.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the external function unit provides at least one parallel port.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the external functions unit provides at least one application specific control.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the external function unit provides at least one modem port.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the external function unit provides at least one network port.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the external function unit provides at least one Internet port.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13 ~~23~~, wherein the UPS includes:

an alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC) converter to receive an AC power signal from an external source;

a battery coupled to the AC/DC converter; and

a DC/DC converter to convert a DC signal of the AC/DC converter into at least a first predetermined DC voltage for use by a device external to the apparatus.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the UPS further includes:

a charger circuit coupled between the AC/DC converter and the battery to charge the battery from an incoming power signal; and

a power conditioning circuit coupled to the AC/DC converter to pass the incoming power signal through to an output node.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the UPS further includes:

a DC/AC ~~inverter~~ converter coupled to the battery; and

a switch coupled between the DC/AC ~~inverter~~ converter and the power conditioning circuit to select which of the battery and the power conditioning circuit can supply power to the output node.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 26 ~~23~~, wherein the bus control module is coupled to monitor subunits of the UPS and controls the switch.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, further including a plurality of switches independently controlled by the bus control module to select which of a plurality of output lines are supplied power by the UPS.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, further including a housing containing the UPS, bus control module and the bus hub.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the housing further includes a plurality of expansion slots.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the housing includes connection points for coupling an expansion module to the housing.

32. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a legacy free personal computer (PC);

a housing containing an uninterruptible power supply (UPS), a bus monitor and control module connected to the UPS, a USB/USB+ hub, and an external functions unit to provide legacy expansion for the PC; and

a serial bus coupling the PC to the bus monitor and control module, wherein the bus monitor and control module distributes direct current (DC) power from the UPS to the PC over the bus.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the bus is a Universal Serial Bus (USB).

34. (Canceled)

35. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the control module includes at least one port for providing UPS status and control communication.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the hub provides at least one USB port and at least one USB+ port.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the external functions unit provides at least one serial port.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the external ~~function~~ functions unit provides at least one parallel port.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the external ~~function~~ functions unit provides at least one modem port.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the external ~~function~~ functions unit provides at least one application specific port.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the external ~~function~~ functions unit provides at least one network port.

42. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the external ~~function~~ functions unit provides at least one Internet port.

43. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for expanding an interface to a computer~~, comprising:

providing a serial communication link to ~~the~~ a computer;

providing a device external to the computer for coupling to the serial communication link, including:

providing an uninterruptible power supply (UPS);

providing a backplane connected to the UPS with a port to provide UPS status and control communication for the UPS, with at least one expansion slot and with an upstream connector for coupling to the serial communication link to serially communicate with the computer and provide power from the UPS to the computer; and

providing at least one expansion card for coupling with the expansion slot, including providing at least one port as an interface for the computer.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein providing at least one expansion card includes providing at least one USB port.

45. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein providing at least one expansion card includes providing at least one USB+ port.

46. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein providing at least one expansion card includes providing at least one serial port.

47. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein providing at least one expansion card includes providing at least one parallel port.

48. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein providing at least one expansion card includes providing at least one application specific port.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein providing at least one expansion card includes providing at least one ~~Interact~~ connection for connection to Internet.

50. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein providing at least one expansion card includes providing at least one modem connection.

51. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein providing at least one expansion card includes providing at least one network connection.

52. (Currently Amended) A device for expanding a computer interface, comprising:

an upstream connector for connecting to a computer through a Universal Serial Bus (USB) using a USB protocol, wherein the device is external to the computer;

a PCI bus structure having a PCI protocol;

a bus control module connected to the upstream connector and to the PCI bus structure, wherein the bus control module is adapted to provide a protocol conversion between the USB protocol and the PCI bus protocol; ~~and~~

a master slot and at least one slave slot connected to the PCI bus structure; and

an uninterruptible power supply (UPS), wherein the bus control module is connected to the UPS and is adapted to provide power from the UPS to the computer through the upstream connector.

53. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for expanding a computer interface~~, comprising:

providing an upstream connector, a PCI bus structure and an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) in a device external to a computer, wherein the PCI bus structure has a PCI bus protocol;

providing a master expansion slot and at least one slave expansion slot connected to the PCI bus structure;

providing power from the UPS to the computer through the upstream connector;

using a USB protocol to communicate between the device and the computer through the upstream connector; and

converting the USB protocol to the PCI bus protocol for use by at least one expansion slot to provide legacy expansion support.